

# Agenda Report

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**Date:** August 14, 2006

**FROM:** CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TEMPORARY PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURE ON ROSE AVENUE AT COOLEY PLACE

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Hold a public hearing on the proposed temporary partial closure and hear evidence offered by persons interested; and
2. Adopt a resolution in accordance with California Vehicle Code Section 21101(f) to temporarily partially close Rose Avenue at Cooley Place to prohibit northbound movement onto Rose Avenue from Cooley Place by installing a raised island, striping, and signage.

## **COMMISSION REVIEW**

Transportation Advisory Commission: In spring 2006, the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) reviewed the project as part of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Number 75504, entitled the "Pasadena High School Pick-Up and Drop-Off Plan," and recommended the project to be included in the FY 2007 CIP.

Planning Commission: At its meeting on Wednesday, July 26, 2006, staff presented a proposed development for 1000 Rose Avenue. The Planning Commission recommended approval of a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Plan including mitigation measures. One of these mitigation measures was the implementation of the Pasadena High School Pick-Up and Drop-Off Plan which includes the temporary partial closure of Rose Avenue at Cooley Place.

**BACKGROUND**

For years there have been safety concerns regarding the pick-up and drop-off of students for Pasadena High School (PHS). To begin addressing these concerns, the "Pasadena High School Pick-Up and Drop-Off Plan" was created and adopted by the City Council as part of the 2007 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) has been meeting with parents and neighbors of PHS to determine a student drop-off and pick-up plan that will improve safety for students and reduce traffic in the neighborhood.

PUSD created a Pasadena High School Drop-off and Pick-up Plan (Plan) to address these concerns and in accordance with the approved CIP project. On May 18, 2006, City and PUSD staff met with parents and neighbors of PHS to present the Plan. Input from the meeting resulted in minor modifications to the Plan.

The Plan includes a number of transportation improvements to be implemented in phases. Phase I includes the temporary partial closure of Rose Avenue to prohibit eastbound traffic on Cooley Place from traveling northbound on Rose Avenue. The temporary closure will continue to allow southbound traffic on Rose Avenue to enter Cooley Place. The Plan also provides for an evaluation period as described in the Program Evaluation section of the Plan. At the end of the first school year, the effect of the temporary closure will be evaluated by applying sound traffic engineering principles and by conducting appropriate traffic and neighborhood surveys and studies to determine if other or permanent changes are warranted. As stated in the Plan, the full effect of the closure is not expected to be apparent until the implementation of other elements of the Plan. At the end of the 2007-08 school year, if sound traffic engineering principles and appropriate traffic and neighborhood surveys and studies support the closure, and, if it is determined that a permanent partial closure of Rose Avenue at Cooley Place is consistent with the mobility element of the City's General Plan, and if it is otherwise appropriate under California Vehicle Code Section 21101(f), then the City will consider permanently prohibiting eastbound Cooley Place traffic from entering northbound Rose Avenue.

At their joint meeting on June 5, 2006, the City Council and the Board of Education approved, in concept, the goals and objectives of the Plan, dated May 22, 2006, and directed their respective staffs to proceed with all required and applicable actions to implement the Plan.

To implement the partial closure of Rose Avenue at Cooley Place, the installation of a raised island, striping and signage is recommended to prevent eastbound vehicles on Cooley Place from proceeding north on Rose Avenue. Southbound vehicles on Rose Avenue will be required to stop at the intersection before being allowed to proceed west on Cooley Place.

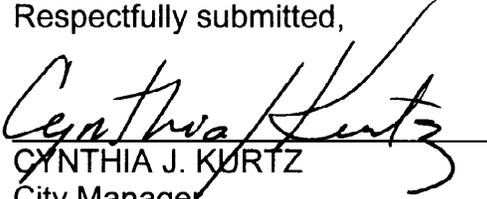
In addition to the May 18, 2006, meeting and prior to this Public Hearing, staff held a community meeting on August 10, 2006, with the Victory/Rose Neighborhood Association and the surrounding area to discuss the proposed partial closure of Rose Avenue at Cooley Place. Comments received from the community will be presented at the Public Hearing on August 14, 2006.

The proposed partial street closure is determined to be Categorically Exempt (Class 1) from environmental review pursuant to the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Section 15301: Existing Facilities.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The City and the Pasadena Unified School District will be sharing in the cost to implement the Pasadena High School Drop-Off and Pick-Up Plan which is estimated at \$1.6 million. The City has appropriated \$450,000 which represents the City's share of funding towards this project in CIP Account Number 75504.

Respectfully submitted,

  
CYNTHIA J. KURTZ  
City Manager

Prepared by:

  
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Principal Engineer

Reviewed by:

  
Daniel A. Rix  
City Engineer

Approved by:

  
Martin Pastucha, Director  
Public Works

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA FOR THE TEMPORARY PARTIAL CLOSURE OF ROSE AVENUE AT COOLEY PLACE TO PROHIBIT EASTBOUND COOLEY PLACE TRAFFIC FROM ENTERING NORTHBOUND ON ROSE AVENUE BY INSTALLING A RAISED ISLAND, STRIPING, AND SIGNAGE ON ROSE AVENUE AT COOLEY PLACE.

WHEREAS, California Vehicle Code Section 21101(f) provides that local authorities may adopt rules and regulations by resolution prohibiting entry to, or exit from, or both, from any street by means of islands, curbs, traffic barriers, or other roadway design features to implement the circulation element of a general plan;

WHEREAS, Rose Avenue north of Cooley Place has long experienced traffic intrusion attributed to the institutional uses of Pasadena High School ("PHS");

WHEREAS, safety concerns related to student loading activities have been raised by residents;

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2006, at the joint meeting of the City of Pasadena City Council and the Pasadena Unified School District, the goals and objectives of the Pasadena High School Drop-off and Pick-up Plan ("Plan"), which includes a package of transportation improvements in order to improve traffic safety around PHS, was approved in concept;

WHEREAS, Phase I of the Plan, dated May 22, 2006, provides for a temporary partial closure of Rose Avenue at Cooley Place to prohibit eastbound

traffic on Cooley Place from traveling northbound on Rose Avenue while still allowing southbound traffic on Rose Avenue to enter Cooley Place;

WHEREAS, in July 2006, the City received a final traffic study prepared by Kaku Associates for a proposed residential development at 1000 Rose Avenue, which includes the implementation of the Plan as a mitigation measure of the project;

WHEREAS, indicated in the Program Evaluation portion of the Plan, the effect of the temporary closure at Rose Avenue and Cooley Place will be evaluated at the end of the first year by: (1) applying sound traffic engineering principles, and (2) by conducting appropriate traffic and neighborhood surveys and studies to determine if other or permanent changes are warranted;

WHEREAS, the full effect of the closure will not be likely apparent until after the implementation of other traffic improvements identified in the Plan; therefore, a decision regarding the permanent installation of the partial closure will be made at the end of the 2007-08 school year;

WHEREAS, the Director of Transportation has determined that temporary partial closure is a sound approach to alleviate problems identified in the area, will allow further study of the problems and will not negatively impact the City's overall transportation system;

WHEREAS, at the end of the 2007-08 school year, if sound traffic engineering principles and appropriate traffic and neighborhood surveys and studies support the closure, and, if it is determined that a permanent partial closure of Rose Avenue at Cooley Place implements and is consistent with the

mobility element of the City's General Plan, and if it is otherwise appropriate under California Vehicle Code Section 21101(f) , then the City will consider permanently prohibiting eastbound Cooley Place traffic from entering northbound Rose Avenue;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council hereby resolves as follows: the temporary partial closure of Rose Avenue at Cooley Place to prohibit northbound movement from Cooley Place onto Rose Avenue by installing a raised island, striping, and signage is approved.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Public Works shall design and install a temporary raised island, striping, and signage on Rose Avenue and Cooley Place, and designate eastbound Cooley Place from Vinedo Avenue as "NOT A THROUGH STREET."

Adopted at the \_\_\_\_\_ meeting of the City Council on the \_\_\_\_\_, 2006, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
JANE L. RODRIGUEZ  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:



8/3/06

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NICHOLAS G. RODRIGUEZ  
Assistant City Attorney